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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY
for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 24th
of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, a summary of the daily office reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, SEPTEMBER 5th, 1888.

THE action of the Chamber of Deputies on the 27th ult. in throwing out the federation bill presented by Deputy Joaquim Nabuco, was certainly a very unwise and shortsighted proceeding. There has recently been enough agitation throughout the provinces to show that some measure of that character must very soon be adopted. The present Chamber was elected before this agitation began, but were it shrewd enough to see a very short way into the future, it could not fail to perceive that the federalist movement will soon be strong enough to make its return in the next elections very uncertain. The defective and complicated system employed in the government of the provinces is creating widespread and well-founded dissatisfaction, and it is a discontent which is sure to grow. Add to this the rapidly increasing republican sentiment throughout the country, and we have reason enough why no time should be lost in meeting these popular demands half way. If the general government now refuses to grant some measure of self-government for the provinces and municipalities, it will soon have a far more serious question to meet in a popular demand for a republic. One of the two concessions must be made, and that, too, very soon. The first would not interfere with the privileges and dignity of the Crown, while it would open the way for a much more effective system of provincial administration; the second, however, would first cause the overthrow of monarchy in Brazil and then plunge the country into a form of self-government, called a republic, which would inevitably degenerate into a wrangling oligarchy.

THE recent strike of the Santos pilots because of the arbitrary exactions of the *guarda-mór* of that port, has occasioned a great deal of unnecessary annoyance and loss to vessels entering and clearing. It appears that a certain pilot was charged by some one stationed at Fort Bertogá with smuggling something ashore in his boat, and for this reason all the pilots are at once treated as smugglers. Very naturally they refused to submit to such treatment and a strike followed, in which, as is always the case, the chief sufferers are those who are not at all concerned in the dispute. We know nothing in regard to the accused pilot, who claims to have proved his innocence; but even were it true, why should the whole class be held accountable. It is a common practice in almost every part of the world for shipmasters to make

the pilot some little present from the ship's stores. The pilot's life is a rough and dangerous one, and it requires a mighty mean customs officer to take these trifles away from him. Here in this port of Rio de Janeiro it is not an uncommon thing for the various visiting officers to accept and even ask for such things, and we presume the same practice holds good in Santos. Why then should the pilots be held to stricter account? A piece of ham or bacon, a jar of preserves, a bottle of brandy, a box of cigars—does the state gain anything by forbidding the pilot's receiving any of these from the ships entrusted to his care and skill? It is a pretty small business for the customs officials to be engaged in, and we trust the minister of finance will lose no time in putting these over-zealous officers at better and more important work. If they could be induced to dispatch vessels and merchandise will the same zeal used to ferret out trifling offences and persecute helpless persons, the ports of Brazil would enjoy a much better reputation abroad.

WE were greatly surprised a few days since to see that the director of the *Lycée de Artes e Offícios*—as that excellent night school opposite the *Typographia Nacional* is called—had decided to close up and liquidate the establishment because the minister of empire had not responded to the urgent requirements of the institution. The *Lycée* is a free night school with an attendance of from 1000 to 1200, and affords the only means of instruction obtainable for many poor boys and girls. Among those attending are many young mechanics who are making highly satisfactory progress in studies designed to make them better workmen. In every respect the school is so creditable in its organization and administration and is doing so good a work, that we could not consider its closing as anything short of a public calamity. It has since transpired, however, that some petulant misunderstanding prompted the hasty decision of the director, who appears to have been offended by a refusal of the government to issue decorations to all the teachers. It is known that these teachers receive nothing whatever in the way of salaries, and it is felt therefore that some public recognition ought to be made of their dedication and self-sacrifice. And many will think, perhaps justly, that they have a better claim upon the state for decorations than barbers, hotel-keepers, station-masters, actors, musicians, and others whose services have been of no public utility to the people of Brazil. The government denies having withheld the subsidy appropriated for the school and also having neglected any demands of its director. We can not undertake to decide where the fault lies, if any there be, but we can not fail to point out the serious prejudice which would result to this city were this school to be discontinued. It would be more to our satisfaction were the director and teachers less desirous of obtaining the worthless decorations which the government is distributing so lavishly, for distinctions granted with so little discrimination and judgment can reflect no honor upon men who have really rendered important services. These baubles could not make teachers more efficient, nor the school more useful; and they might serve to make both ridiculous. We should like to see, however, some public recognition of the services of these good and really philanthropic people who have been rendering efficient and unselfish work toward bettering the condition of the people, instead of devoting all aid and praise to the pious blunders of the minister of justice who prefers to encourage and shelter beggary and vice rather than prevent it.

THE good intentions of the *Gazeta da Tarde* in a leading article of the 31st ult. on the Botanical Garden tramway are clearly manifest—for it is apparent to any dispassionate mind that the opposition made to the extension of that company's privilege and the terms demanded by the government are entirely without reason. But, at the same time, the *Gazeta* is decidedly wrong in his comments on the American company which built and operated the line for so many years. Our colleague does not strengthen his argument one particle by misrepresenting the old company. He admits the difficulties encountered in building and opening the first section of the road, but he gives no credit to Mr. Greenough and his friends for their courage and perseverance, through which this city has derived so much benefit in wealth, convenience and customs. Probably there is not one single agency in modern times which has led to so many important changes and improvements. Our colleague, however, is so clearly mistaken in his assertion that the extension to the Botanical Garden was built with the first six months' earnings of the first section, that it needs no contradiction. The rest of the line, it is true, was built with the surplus earnings, but it took many times six months, careful management and strict economy. As for the fabulous profits received by the company without corresponding compensation to the public, what does the *Gazeta* mean? In one breath he says, "immediately the buildings increased in value, house construction was begun with energy, the lands advanced in value and the movement toward that suburb was very considerable," and then in the next he says that the company "enriched itself in the first years with fabulous profits without corresponding compensation to the public!" If this increase of wealth and population, if cheaper fares and quick transit, if convenience and comfort in travelling, are not legitimate items of compensation to the public, then what are they? The chief error of our colleague—which is perhaps too gross an injustice to be termed an error—is that the American company avoided an arrangement with the government by which the public might be compensated for an extension of their privilege, and then, at a convenient moment, "imposed upon the good faith of Brazilians and transferred the company to them for a fabulous price." To those who remember the scandalous intrigues against the Americans in the interest of the Copacabana concession, which was obtained by a favorite at court and transferred to speculators who proposed to bleed the company, all this will sound very amusing. The American company had to pay out fabulous sums to defend its rights in the courts, a part of which went to lawyers whose services ought to have been paid by the other side. And then, when the Americans found that there was no protection for them against spoliation, and that other schemes were on foot for new attacks on their privilege, they privately offered the enterprise for sale and the property was taken over by some of the best known capitalists of the city who knew exactly what they were buying. The nominal value of the shares was 200\$, while the selling price was about 700\$—a large premium of course, but certainly not so large as 21\$ for the subsidiary shares of the Leopoldina railway. The Botanical Garden shares were worth the price paid as an investment, or the buyers were fools. The Brazilian company paid about 7,000,000\$ for the property, and almost its very first act was to water the stock by raising the nominal capital to 10,000,000\$, which of course resulted in depreciation and reduced dividends. But was the American company to blame for all this? It won't do, colleague!

shoulder your own blunders, if you please, and take the consequences like a man! The American company built the model tramway of the world and deserves your gratitude rather than your fault-finding.

A CORRECTION.

On the morning of the 28th ult. the *Jornal do Commercio* published a statement in its report of the banquet to Dr. Antonio Bento to the effect that the editor of this paper, Mr. A. J. Lamoureux, had declared his intention to seek naturalization as a Brazilian. A denial of this report was at once sent to Dr. Souza Ferreira, editor-in-chief of the *Jornal*, who very courteously corrected the mistake, which was occasioned, perhaps, by the confusion and congratulations following the declarations of Srs. Angelo Agostini and Seixas Magalhães of their acceptance of Brazilian citizenship, now that the country is free from the incubus of human slavery. As the statement is still going the rounds of the provincial press that Mr. Lamoureux had made a similar declaration, it becomes necessary to repeat our denial in these columns. We were neither invited to accept Brazilian citizenship, nor did we declare any intention of seeking it. We are not insensible of the honors and advantages of such a step, nor of the more intimate social intercourse which might spring from such a relationship, but the gentlemen present knew quite as well as we did how impossible it would be for an American and a republican to renounce allegiance to a government so liberal, progressive and enlightened as that of the United States. We make no comparisons, nor do we decline what has never been offered us, but for the information of those who have believed the report and may not have seen the correction, we desire simply to say that we are so strongly attached to the people and institutions of the United States that even a better country, if one existed, could hardly offer inducements enough to lead us into so grave a step as this.

ABOLITION TESTIMONIALS.

During the festivities following the adoption of the abolition law of May 13th last, a call was made by our old friend Deputy Joaquim Nabuco for a popular 500 reis subscription to raise the sum of 500\$ with which to present Angelo Agostini, of the *Revista Illustrada*, and A. J. Lamoureux, of *The Rio News*, with testimonials commemorating the part taken by them in the struggle for abolition. In this call Mr. Nabuco directed attention to the circumstance that these two foreign journalists had been companions of his in the agitation since the beginning in 1879, and that their journals were the first and only ones which had begun the discussion then and continued it uninterruptedly ever since.

Our colleagues of the *Puiz* very courteously undertook to receive the subscriptions, which in a short time very nearly covered the required amount. Among the names published were many prominent and cultivated people of this city, who were pleased to make use of such an opportunity to express their good will and appreciation for the foreigners who had used whatever of influence they possessed to free Brazil from the stigma and burden of human slavery.

In due time the sum required was raised, and it was then decided that the testimonials should be a gold pencil for Agostini (the artist) and a gold pen for Lamoureux, both set with brilliants and appropriately engraved. The work was entrusted to the well-known artist Valentin, and were ready for presentation only a few days since.

On the evening of the 26th ult. the *Confederação Abolicionista* gave a banquet at

the Hotel Globo in honor of Antonio Bento, the celebrated leader of the São Paulo abolitionists, Cassio Farinha, ex-editor of the *Patria* of Montevideo, Angelo Agostini, of the *Revista Illustrada*, and A. J. Lamoureux, of *The Rio News*. Many of the most prominent abolitionists of the city were present, among whom were Senators Dantas (who presided) and Silveira da Motta, Deputies Nabuco and Jaguaribe, President João Clapp of the Confederação Abolicionista, Dr. Theodorito Souto, ex-president of Amazonas, Dr. Ennes de Souza, and others, among whom were the representatives of the local press. Several important speeches were made during the evening, principally that of Senator Dantas who outlined the liberal programme of the future—federation of the provinces, extension of the suffrage, division of the large estates and encouragement of small farming, and other no less liberal and important reforms.

The occasion being a suitable one for the presentation of the testimonials to Agostini and Lamoureux, the presentation speech and toast was delivered by Deputy Joaquim Nabuco, who generously enlarged upon the aid and encouragement given him by these two foreign journalists and of the recognized part taken by them in keeping up the struggle until it was brought to its successful and glorious conclusion.

The pen presented to the editor of this paper is a beautiful piece of workmanship, bearing a single diamond on the plume, and exhibiting the following inscription: "*A. J. Lamoureux—Redactor-Proprietario do Rio News—13 de Maio de 1888—Os Abolicionistas Brasileiros.*" In acknowledgment of this appropriate memento of so eventful and memorable a struggle, Mr. Lamoureux addressed the following letter to Mr. Nabuco on the succeeding day:

THE RIO NEWS.

Rio de Janeiro, 29th August, 1888

My dear Mr. Nabuco:

It is a very pleasant and satisfactory experience for one to know that he has a thousand friends, and to receive a substantial proof of that fact such as the beautiful and appropriate testimonial which you have just presented me, in remembrance of the 13th of May and of the part taken by two foreign journalists—Angelo Agostini and myself—in advocating the abolition of slavery in Brazil. As the subscription was initiated by you, I beg that you will accept my most heartfelt thanks for this beautiful souvenir, and convey the same, as you so well know how to do; to each and every one of these considerate friends.

In accepting the testimonial and in thanking you for the compliments—only too undeserved, I fear—with which you honored me at the presentation, I beg that you will permit me to enter a protest to the extent of saying that it is all far beyond my deserts. Had I been able to appeal to the eyes and hearts of the people as my gifted friend and colleague of the *Revista Illustrada* has so effectively done with his magic pencil, then there could be no doubt as to the credit due me in helping to secure this great reform; but, as you well know, my influence has been exerted upon a different class and has been widely different in character. It is true that I began advocating the abolition of slavery in 1879, and that I have kept up the discussion continuously and untiringly ever since; and it is true, also, that for a great part of the time *The Rio News* was the only advocate, so far as I am informed, of immediate and unconditional emancipation, but I can not think that any special credit is due to me on this account. Abolition was with me simply a question of principle; it was an act of abstract justice and sound political economy. Believing, as I do, that it is the highest

duty of the journalist to lead and instruct public opinion, to condemn everything unjust and hurtful and to commend and aid everything right and beneficial, I simply had no other policy to pursue.

I should like to feel certain that my influence as a journalist has been of service to you and your friends, but I can not flatter myself that this has been the case. Indirectly, however, I may have been of some service by making the questions of Brazilian slavery and emancipation better understood abroad and by convincing foreigners resident in Brazil of the justice and urgency of the immediate abolition of slavery.

However that may be, it is my good fortune to have seen this great revolution peacefully accomplished, and to have rendered even the slightest service toward that happy result. And it is both my duty and my pleasure, as an American who has seen this same controversy solved in his own country only by means of one of the most terrific struggles of modern times, to congratulate you and your countrymen on the peaceful abolition of slavery in Brazil. The record of this great event will be written in characters of gold on the imperishable pages of your national history, and will be, let us hope, an inspiration and example through all time for the peaceful solution of similar questions.

Again thanking you and the many friends who have so courteously remembered the stranger, in the midst of their happy rejoicings, and offering to you and to them my best wishes for the future prosperity and happiness of yourselves and this great country,

I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

A. J. LAMOREUX.

MR. JOAQUIM NABUCO,

Member of the Chamber of Deputies,

RIO DE JANEIRO.

BANKS AND REAL ESTATE.

The prohibition placed upon national banks in the United States in respect to investments in real estate securities, is very clearly explained in the following extract from a committee report recently presented in the House of Representatives upon the codification and modification of the laws affecting these institutions. It will be seen that the policy pursued in that country is to keep the banks strictly within commercial requirements and requires all investments to be of an easily convertible character, a provision which greatly facilitates liquidation, and really enhances the value of the banks for business purposes. The provisions for real estate loans in the bill now before the Chamber of Deputies is clearly so prejudicial to the usefulness and success of the projected banks in Brazil, that we deem it necessary to recommend a careful re-reading of the following reasons why such loans are considered inadvisable.

In reference to the investment of bank funds in real estate, the report says:

"Sections 147 to 150, inclusive, contain what is believed to be a very salutary check upon the managers of national banks in respect to investments in real estate securities. Since the liabilities of banks are payable on demand, the fundamental principle of good banking is that the assets should be readily convertible into money. Real estate and real estate securities are hardly ever readily convertible; while under conditions often arising they become inconvertible, and remain so for long periods of time. Experience teaches that these conditions are sure to arise just when the exigencies of the community demand from banks the largest and readiest money accommodation.

"Denial in real estate and in bonds and debentures secured by real estate, is of course an entirely legitimate employment for private or corporate capital, and there seems no lack of capital seeking such employment. It is generally safe, and often profitable; but commercial banks should be restrained from investing their deposits in such forms, lest their depositors should be exposed to the danger of finding that the cash upon which they depend for their current transactions has become locked up in investments which, however safe and profitable for the bank, cannot be made to reimburse the cash at the moment at which it is most urgently needed."

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

It may not be uninteresting to the Chamber of Deputies and, perhaps, to the fourteen thousand women who recently recorded themselves in favor of religious intolerance, to know that Catholics are not as united on that subject as the recent petition against the "freedom of worship" bill implies. The priests of Brazil are moulded somewhat on the style of those in Spain and Italy, who wish to keep exclusive authority in their own hands by controlling the state and keeping the people in ignorance and subjection. That this is not the belief and purpose of intelligent Catholics in the United States may be seen by the following extract from the address of Bishop Spalding at the laying of the corner-stone of the new Catholic University at Washington on May 24th. Speaking of the religious exiles who sought a home in America where they could enjoy freedom of conscience and freedom of worship, he said:

"Who could have had faith that men of different creeds, speaking various tongues, bred in unlike social conditions, would here become one and cooperate for the general purpose of free government? Above all, who could have believed that a form of government, rarely tried, even in small states, and when tried found practicable only for brief periods, would here become so stable, so strong, that every hamlet, every village, is self-governed and manages its own affairs? The achievement is greater than we are able to know; nor, does it lie chiefly in the millions who, coming from many lands, have here made homes and found themselves free, nor in the building of cities, the clearing of forests, the draining of swamps, the building of two oceans, and the opening of lines of rapid communication in every direction. Not in numbers and wealth do we owe our significance among the nations, but to the fact that we have shown that respect for a law is compatible with civil and religious liberty; that a free people can become prosperous and strong and preserve order without king or standing army; that the state and the church can move in separate orbits and still cooperate for the common welfare; that men of different races and beliefs may live together in peace; that in spite of an abnormally rapid increase of population and of wealth, and of the many evils thence resulting, the prevailing tendency is in sanity of thought and sentiment; that plainly manifesting the vigor of our life and institutions; that the government of the majority, where men put their trust in God and in knowledge, is in the end the government of the good and the wise."

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

August 23.—In the Senate the session was occupied in discussing the estimates of the department of foreign affairs during which some plain talk was addressed in Brazilian diplomatic and consular representatives. In the Chamber on motion of Barão de Gahy the session was adjourned in honor of the return of the Emperor.

August 24.—In the Senate the session was again occupied in discussing the estimates of the department of foreign affairs. In the Chamber the minister of foreign affairs replied to a question from Deputy Magel that the Emperor had returned in good health, as well physically as morally. Deputy Pedro Luiz had some sarcastic remarks to make regarding the changed position of the minister of justice. The department of agriculture budget was discussed by Deputies Coelho Campos and Coelho Rodrigues, but nothing of special interest was debated. Deputy Affonso Penna spoke in the finance budget with a similar result.

August 25.—In the Senate the discussion of Pará provincial matters occupied considerable time, which might have been, we think, better employed. Senator Silveira Martins and the minister discussed the estimates of the department of foreign affairs; the former was equally severe on Brazilian diplomats abroad and foreign diplomats in Brazil. The war estimates were discussed by Visconde de Pelotas and Senator Avila, both of whom had unfavorable criticisms to offer on the organization, etc., of the army. In the Chamber there was no session.

August 27.—In the Senate there was no session. In the Chamber the project for the federation of the provinces of the empire was thrown out by 43 to 30 votes. A shower of demands from planters for indemnity for their slaves were presented and Deputy Affonso Penna called attention to what appears to be a system of political taxation by the conservatives of Pará. Deputy Costa Aguiar showed the advantages of Italian over German immigration, and had a few appeals for certain improvements in Pará. Deputy Zama desires the Bahia Central railway extended and favors for his province (Bahia). The president of the council made a long speech in answer to criticisms by opposition speakers; the minister endorses the liberal ideas of the minister of agriculture, and the platform of the cabinet seems to be well defined; resistance to immigration, railway extension, etc. Unless Deputy Bezant was chosen to fill the time remaining, we can deduce a reason for his speech made on financial affairs.

August 28.—In the Senate Sr. Saravia presented the project of a law relative to tram companies. Barão de Estancia gave a very unsatisfactory account of Sergipe provincial affairs. Barão de Cotegipe and Senator Siqueira Mendes executed a species of duel relative to political questions in Pará. Senator Candido de Oliveira made a strong

opposition speech on the department of war budget; the minister has exceeded his authority on pretty much every point. Senator Correia and Visconde de Ouro Preto also spoke, but the discussion was of no general interest. In the Chamber the minister of foreign affairs made a forcible reply to criticisms on his action when minister of agriculture. Deputy Pedro Luiz replied, but it appears to us that his speech was a virtual confession of the stolidity with which the province of Rio de Janeiro has resisted abolition and immigration. Deputy Lourenço de Albuquerque spoke in the finance budget.

August 29.—In the Senate Sr. Candido de Oliveira, who appears to have assumed the leadership of the opposition, made a violent attack on the government, commencing with the closing of the Lyceum of Arts and Trades, and concluding with the Pará political tax law. There was considerable disorder, but the senator seems to have been more powerful than the officers of the Senate. The premier replied to the criticisms of the preceding speaker regarding the Lyceum, declaring himself totally ignorant of what demand was by its directors was refused by the minister of empire. Senator Dantas availed of a somewhat inconvenient expression of the premier and pointed out that the closing of the Lyceum would be a great misfortune. The premier returned to the charge and declared that as president of the Lyceum he was ignorant of the charges alleged against the minister of empire. Senator Silveira da Motta saw political questions in this matter, inasmuch as the minister of empire decided that which the president of the council was ignorant of. The premier was again brought into the debate and repeated that he had known nothing of what the directors of the Lyceum had decided upon. The occurrence occupied considerable time. The minister of war replied *ad vocem* to various objections made by preceding speakers. Senator Ribeiro da Luz closely examined the various votes for military expenses; it is astonishing to an outsider how jealous of increased expenses ex-ministers show themselves. In the Chamber, the minister of empire gave his version of the Lyceum incident, from which it appears that the question of re-opening the school. Deputy Canino da Cunha had some requests to make for railway extension and sugar factories for his province, Parahyba do Norte. Deputy Coelho Rodrigues spoke on the agriculture budget, and Passos Miranda on that of finance.

August 30.—In the Senate the decree promulgating the legislative session up to September 15th was read and Senators Ribeiro da Luz and Avila spoke on the war department estimates. In the Chamber the session was of no interest; the department of agriculture budget, with its immense tail of amendments, passed second reading.

August 31.—No quorum in either Senate or Chamber.

September 1.—In the Senate the session was devoid of interest, and there was no quorum in the Chamber.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The July receipts of the Pará custom house amounted to 782,822\$211.

—The July receipts of the provincial *recolectoría* of Pará amounted to 208,161\$932.

—The reports from Ceará are anything but reassuring, many places in the interior suffering greatly from the effects of the prolonged drought.

—The Bahia provincial assembly has placed itself on record as desiring a new federation of the provinces.

—The July receipts of the Mandos [Amazonas] custom house amounted to 90,757\$770, and of the provincial *recolectoría* 91,391\$920.

—An epidemic of small-pox has broken out in Breves, a town on the Amazon. The people are petitioning for help.

—Printed copies of the regulations for civil registry are only just now being distributed in the provinces.

—The mercantile classes of Macahé, Rio de Janeiro, have until now made a protest against the increased taxes on industries and professions.

—The *Diário de Minas* says that the coffee product of Minas Geraes is estimated at 2,200,000 bags and the tobacco crop at 4,000,000 kilograms.

—The Minas Geraes provincial budget fixes the receipts for next year at 3,597,000\$ and expenditures at 3,598,000\$, apparently leaving the subsidies projected to take care of themselves.

—The business classes of S. Paulo and S. João da Barra have joined those of Campos in protesting against the new taxes on industries and professions. Rio de Janeiro, however, swallows the new imposition and makes no complaint.

—The July receipts of the Espírito Santo post-office were 1,921\$210 and expenses 2,765\$560, showing a deficit of 843\$350. We trust that "Nemo" will immediately place this unfavorable state of things before the *separatistas* in São Paulo.

—A new journal has been started in Campos under the title *O Commercio Campesino*. It will be published three times a week and will be devoted to the commercial and industrial interests of that flourishing municipality. The *Commercio* has our best wishes.

—The good people of Santos are carrying Our Lady of Montserrat around the streets with banners, music, candles, incense and a dirty, pest-infested crowd to drive away the small-pox. A better way to spread the disease could not have been invented.

—There were 3,411 immigrants landed at Santos during the past month.

—Telegrams from Ceará report the *secca* to be extending throughout that province. Public aid is now being distributed in some districts, and the president of the province has resolved upon the construction of a great reservoir for the prevention of these disastrous periodical droughts.

—A provincial contemporary of Diamantina, Minas Geraes, says that a woman residing in a small village called Sincirã, recently gave birth in five boys, of which three are living. A small subsidy to the local press will probably increase the population of Minas much faster than any costly immigration project.

—The São Paulo provincial government has resolved to pay the Ypiranga monument commission, on account of the special lottery fund deposited in the provincial treasury, the sum of 231,333\$753 in cash and 200,000\$ in 6% bonds. It would seem that the provincial treasury has been using the deposit for current expenses.

—The merchants of Campinas, São Paulo, are manifesting considerable discontent in regard to the increased taxes on industries and professions, and have held a popular meeting to formulate a representation against their execution. The merchants of Rio de Janeiro, who dwell under the shadow of the police and live upon the crumbs from official tables, have nothing to say.

—The *Monte Campêda* of the 24th contains an advertisement to the effect that the owner of the celebrated game-cock "Sabão" is ready to make a match with any one, for 1000\$ in 2000\$, the fight to take place on "any sanctified day" (*qualquer dia sanctificado*). The cock is respectively submitted to the 14,000 women who want existing religious institutions retained to guard Brazil against an invasion of immorality.

—The *reclutador* of the *Quarantã* central sugar factory for last year does not show a very favorable result. The company borrowed 1,500,000\$ at 95 from the Banco Internacional at 7% to refund its 8 1/2% debentures and floating debt. The cane crushing began June 21st and ended December 23rd, yielding 5,534,541 kilos of sugar of all grades and 887,400 litres of rum were manufactured. The total receipts amounted to 554,645\$949 and expenditures 539,377\$668. The enterprise has a state guarantee.

RAILROAD NOTES

—The April receipts of the Minas and Rio line were 68,245\$520 and expenses 42,338\$550.

—The minister of agriculture has called upon the directors of the S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line for a reduced tariff schedule.

—On the 30th ult., the payment of 181,203\$730, interest guarantee for the first six months of 1888, was ordered to be made to the Campos and Carimão railway.

—By an *auto* of the 28th ult., the minister of agriculture authorizes the payment of 80,000\$ to the S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line on account of interest guarantee for the last half year.

—On the 25th ult., the minister of agriculture authorized the Minas and Rio railway to purchase four locomotives, for cost not to exceed 125,000\$, which is to be charged working expenses at the rate of 20,000\$ per annum.

—The total receipts of the São Paulo railway for the half year ending 30th June last were 2,775,408\$530, and expenditures, 1,227,851\$050, leaving a surplus of 1,547,557\$480. The surplus for the corresponding period of 1887 was 1,912,459\$070.

—At the general meeting of the shareholders of the Macaê and Campos railway, held on the 30th ult., the action of the directors as to the loan recently raised in London was approved and also the bases for the purchase of the Macaê branch of the Leopoldina (Cangallo) railway.

—The total receipts of the S. Paulo tramway lines during the last half year were 211,077\$017 and expenditures, 154,788\$620, leaving a surplus of 56,288\$397. A dividend of 48300 per share was declared, at the rate of 8.6% for the year. Two kilometres were added to the company's lines during the year.

—The technical staff of the Baçé and Uruguaiana railway, a government line in the province of Rio Grande do Sul, was organized on the 30th ult. The estimate is that the line, 472 kilometres, can be built for 15,000,000\$. It was this project that caused considerable talk when estimates were furnished by a foreign company amounting to over 36,000,000\$.

—The total receipts of the S. Paulo and Rio de Janeiro line for the half year ending June 30th last were 706,173\$355, against 666,154\$970 for the same period of 1887, showing an increase of 40,018\$385. The expenditures were 430,135\$177, a decrease of 21,408\$441 from the same period of last year. The surplus this year was 276,038\$178, or an increase of 61,058\$428 over the corresponding six months of 1887.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—The Argentine Republic received 71,971 immigrants during the first six months of the current year.

—The United States representative in Montevideo, *Inthierro*, *chargé d'affaires*, has been raised to the rank of minister and consul-general.

—A lighthouse convention between the Argentine Republic and Uruguay was formally signed at Montevideo on the 16th ult., in which it is provided that neither country will give entrance or dispatch to vessels which can not show proofs of having paid the lighthouse charges of both countries. Why not include Brazil also in this amicable little arrangement?

—According to the Montevideo *Express* the May and June criminal statistics show that 34 per cent of the crimes committed in that city were by Uruguayans, 20 per cent by Spaniards, and 23.7 per cent by Italians. The Spaniards, however, comprise only 11.5 per cent of the population, and the Italians 10 per cent. This shows a very large preponderance of crime—nearly 44 per cent—among these two nationalities.

LOCAL NOTES

—The British gunboat *Riflemen* arrived here from Montevideo on the 27th.

—Some thieves broke into a powder boat near the main arsenal on the night of the 26th ult., and carried off about 2000 pounds of powder.

—The government has promoted João Arthur de Souza Correia, minister resident at Madrid, to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary at Washington.

—A poor old freedman 70 years of age was left at the door of the Misericórdia hospital on the 27th, whence he was sent to the beggar's asylum. His former owners have no further use for him.

—The *Diário Oficial* of the 24th ult., published the permission granted the New Zealand Shipping company, the Shaw, Savill and Albion company and the Chargeurs Réunis to do business in the empire.

—The number of guaranteed central sugar factories has now been reduced to 15, representing a capital of 11,700,000\$. The amount expended on these guarantees up to the 31st December last was 2,011,908\$.

—On the 17th ult., the minister of empire sent to the president of S. Paulo the royal letters nominating Dr. Martin Francisco Ribeiro de Anhaide Filho a *commodoro* of the Order of the Rose. Will the nominee refuse the honor?

—The representative of Brazilian Submarine Telegraph company has notified the government that from the 1st inst. the tax of 400 rs. per word charged as difference in exchange will cease. We trust the company has not been precipitate.

On the 26th ult. two rowdies, known as *cabeceiras*, had a discussion and one shot the other, killing him almost instantly. We suggest that a subscription be organized to present the executioner with a pension, for he has benefitted society.

—The newspaper mails for the Royal Mail packet *Rio* on the 28th ult. were closed five hours before the hour for sailing, and the letter mails three hours before. The attention of the Emperor is called to the great progress which Brazil is making.

—Decrees dated on the 18th ult., declared lapsed the concessions for the interest guarantee on the cost of 10 central sugar factories, viz.: 4 of the Central Sugar Factories of Brazil, 2 of the North Brazilian Sugar Factories and 4 of the Bahia Central Sugar Factories.

—During the three nights of public illumination in honor of the Emperor's return, the gas consumption of the city reached a total of 136,873 cubic metres. The maximum consumption was on the night of the 23rd, amounting to 46,421 cubic metres.

—A breach of contract suit was tried before the *Milheses* sheriff's court July 13th between the London and Brazilian Bank and Charles Francis Cudde who left the Pernambuco branch of that bank in 1887 to accept a position in the Banco Internacional do Brasil at a higher salary. The bank claimed 2500 damages. The jury returned a verdict for the bank with 1500 damages.

—The thousands of Brazilian females who have signed the representation against Senator Silveira Martin's freedom of religion bill, could have had no better representative than Deputy Andrade Figueira. The protest is a mixture of utter nonsense, religion, politics and "help in agriculture." How sane people, even women, could have signed such a document is perfectly incomprehensible.

—The Pacific Mail steamer *Potosi* arrived here on the 25th ult., a little after 2 p. m. and her mails were received at the postoffice at 3.10. The newspaper marks for that steamer, however, were closed at 3 and letter mail at 5 p. m., before the hour of sailing was known. In fact the steamer did not get away until late in the evening. The public is fairly groaning under the burden of obligations which the postoffice is heaping upon it!

—Our River Plate exchanges will be pleased to hear that Mr. Frank Raleigh has changed his mind about joining Lord Parnes's yacht, and has instead certain appointments here that he intends spending several months in Brazil to study the language, people and institutions. He left here, after a short visit, on the coasting steamer *Carrillo* for the purpose of visiting Bahia and Pernambuco, after which he intends to return to Rio to resume the domestic studies. If he is as anxious to return as he was to get away, we shall soon have him with us again.

—The army reorganization provides for an increase to 15,689 men in times of peace and 28,608 in times of war.

—A new distinction for the Emperor. He has been elected honorary president of the club of volunteers and honorary members of the army. What will Dr. Silva Jardim say to this?

—Mr. Charles Schmitt has been appointed hair-dresser to Her Majesty, the Empress. He has for some time served, in the same capacity, Her Imperial Highness, the Princess Imperial.

—We hear that Mr. and Mrs. Feininger will soon give another of their very enjoyable concerts, probably on the 15th. A large attendance of those who appreciate good music may be counted upon.

—On the 23rd ult. it was officially announced that the Emperor had declined to receive the resignation of the ministry, which was tendered as is customary when the executive is changed.

—On the 30th ult. the minister of justice "raped in" a number of merchants and succeeded in obtaining from them a promise to aid in his scheme for the establishment of charitable institutions.

—A great display of fireworks was given on Botafogo Bay on the night of the 20th inst. in honor of their Majesties, and under the auspices of the Associação Commercial. We are under many obligations for the complimentary invitation sent us.

—There is a spider in Russia known as "the black wolf" that carries 25 per cent. of his weight about him in poison. One third of a milligramme of this poison per kilogramme of the weight of a patient will fit the candidate for a better world.

—Visconde de Figueiredo, president of the Banco Internacional, who has shown that energy and intelligence are not lacking in Brazilian commerce, gave a grand ball at the Casino Fluminense on the night of the 30th ult. It is estimated that nearly 3,000 persons were present; the entertainment was successful to the utmost extent, and we fully appreciated the public invitation with which we were favored.

—It is privately reported that the rowdies, who tried to break a police *delegado's* (Dr. Bousquet) head in the Rua do Ovidor on the evening of the 23rd ult., during the popular rejoicings over the Emperor's return, were more other than a party of law students from São Paulo. If the law academy then teaches this method of expounding the law, perhaps it would be well to keep the police councillors abreast.

—The pretty little church built by the Methodist Episcopal society at this city on the Largo do Catete and opened for service two years ago, was formally dedicated by Bishop J. C. Granbery on the 26th ult. The dedicatory sermon was rendered into Portuguese by Rev. J. W. Trelhou, after which the members of the church formally delivered the edifice, free of debt, to the Bishop for the use and service of the great denomination which he represents here in Brazil.

—The Presbyterian church societies of Brazil are now holding a Presbytery in this city, at which all the clergymen of that denomination in the empire are gathered. At the conclusion of the Presbytery, a Synod will be organized in which the churches, created by both the Northern and Southern divisions of that denomination in the United States, will be united. The Rev. Drs. Hodge and Knox, accompanied by Rev. G. W. Chamberlain, formerly of São Paulo, came out on the American steamer *Rainier* to attend this first synod of the Brazilian Presbyterians.

—As was to be expected a little plain talk of tended the *bios* of our naval officers, and in general assembly on the 21st ult. they censured the permanence of one of their number on the editorial staff of *O País* after the publication of an article referring to the condition of the ironclad *Riachuelo* in the said journal. So long as the press had nothing but terms of approbation, the relations of the navy left nothing to be desired; once a criticism, however just, appears the officers immediately ruffle up and present anything but a creditable position.

—We sincerely trust that the husbands, fathers and sons of the Brazilian women who have signed the protest against free religion feel comfortable under their affliction. Men rarely interfere with their womenfolk's religious entertainments, nor in civilized countries with their political aspirations; but if a man be master in his own house he might, could and should have prevented any such a debasement, visibly organized by priests, being signed by his family. Were the document less silly and more interesting, it would have been a pleasure to us to have furnished the text of this precious *manifesto* to foreign readers, as a proof of how advanced *high-life* has become in Brazil.

—Although we are not enthusiastic admirers of the minister of justice, we can not but applaud his communication to Visconde de S. Francisco published in the *Diário Oficial* of the 26th ult. The minister suggests that the indiscriminate allowing in the city he suspended and the equivalent furnished the asylums to be formed on the Ilha do Governador. It is a reasonable declaration to suppose that Sr. Keyreira Vianna proposes to remove the beggars from our streets. The number of these wretched creatures that appear every Saturday is astonishing, and as nearly all receive alms from shopkeepers, their substitution by collectors for the asylums would have but one drawback; would not the collectors levy rather considerable commissions?

—Live and learn. The *Diário de Notícias* of the 29th ult. says Alma Tadema is a Dutchman!

—The president of the council and the minister of foreign affairs have received the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great.

—The virtuous bishop of Pernambuco has come here from S. Paulo to compliment the Emperor. Why does not the bishop look after his own diocese?

—Our esteemed correspondent, *Vêrde*, can send around to this office and receive the reward offered in our last number. We meant "hroque," not "accout."

—The mint coined 173,698\$ in silver during August for private parties. What becomes of all this new money, which already reaches a very considerable sum?

—A telegram to *O País*, dated Rome 28th August, says that the Armenians have re-embraced Catholicism. Who could have telegraphed these Armenians that 14,000 Brazilian ladies object to Protestantism?

—The City Improvements Company has hit a new source of revenue. In cleaning up the drains in the Rua do Rosário the other day there were found no less than 37 spoons! Unfortunately they did not appear to have been silver.

—The minister of justice is going to send able-bodied mendicants to work at the new asylum on the Ilha do Governador. Let us hope that some of the night occupants of the Praga D. Pedro II will be among the first provided for.

—On the 27th ult. the crown of gold and diamonds purchased by a popular subscription was presented to the Empress at the S. Christovão palace. The originator of the idea had his name on one of the ribbons attached to the crown.

—A local colleague mentions a famous American swimmer who jumped from the Niagara bridge into the St. Lawrence, and from the Brooklyn bridge into the Potomac river. No wonder he was famous; a man that could jump from New York to Washington is considerable of a "jumper."

—A race run here on the 30th ult., was probably unique. No one would go for 100 on one of the horses, but seven speculators risked 1\$ each; and they received 4500\$000 on each mile run. Now, that is the sort of race we should like to have a chance in.

—Would it not be advantageous to pay the Brazilian legislator *pro labore*? Results are comically beneath the money value of the columns of rhetoric expended, and perhaps if settlements were made when budgets are approved we would hear less of what interests no one but the speakers.

—At the meeting of the municipal chamber on the 1st inst. the president stated that a representative of foreign capitalists had sought him to offer a loan of 5,000,000\$ on conditions that appear favorable. We sincerely trust the offer will be accepted—so that foreign capitalists may gain experience.

—If we understand correctly one of our local colleagues, the government must come to the assistance of everybody, but newspaper men; and against this exception we venture to issue our protest. If the treasury does not give substantial aid and encouragement to the *Novidades* there will surely be a revolution.

—It is satisfactory to note that the Court of Appeals has ordered Dr. Davino, the hero of negro murders at Sta. Maria Magdalena, province of Rio de Janeiro, to be submitted to a new trial. His acquittal is certain; but the judges of the higher court evidently think that Dr. Davino's fellow planters require a lesson in law.

—In the speech of the premier on the 27th ult. at the Chamber of Deputies, there is a reference to the director of the *Diário Oficial* that should cause a sneeze. The minister says the editor was too rhetorical in his item relative to the arrival of the Emperor and Empress; but being an old journalist the director became rather too enthusiastic, and is perhaps excusable.

—Artists should take notice that works presented to the Emperor, sent from Europe, are overlooked by the imperial servants and are sold by the custom house to pay storage. At least this appears to have occurred with a picture sent to His Majesty by Sr. Weingartner, whose polite invitation to visit his exhibition we may here acknowledge.

—The recent report of our having resolved to take out naturalization papers in Brazil has developed several very amusing perplexities. We have received congratulations from Englishmen on our reported change of nationality, while, on the contrary, we have been congratulated by Frenchmen for not changing. Who says that "blood is thicker than water?"

—Our esteemed colleague of *L'Etoile du Sud*, M. Charles Morel, will kindly accept our most sincere thanks for his complimentary notice of the editor of this journal in his last issue. We can fully appreciate his sentiments in the matter of naturalization, and his congratulations upon the circumstance that we had not changed our allegiance is reported. It is not a discourtesy to this country to express a strong preference for the land of our nativity and the political institutions which come nearest our ideals of justice and liberality, and it is a pleasure to us to find our colleague so heartily in sympathy with this position.

Stocks were this morning estimated to be from 190,000 to 195,000 bags in first, and about 24,000 bags in second hands awaiting shipment.

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With the beginning of its 15th volume (January, 1888) the editors feel themselves warranted in calling attention to the uniform and general satisfaction with which their policy and management have thus far been received, and in advising their patrons that no deviation is however from them will be made. The News will seek to keep its questions, and upon all matters of Brazilian or policy which may have more or less bearing upon any and all every question fairly, and for the opinions expressed in its columns it will hold themselves personally responsible. In its news columns it will seek to keep its readers fully informed on all matters of occurrence throughout Brazil.

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